

wherein said overlay is made of a lead-free tin-base alloy which consists essentially of, by weight,

from more than 2% to 10% Ag, and

balance of Sn and inevitable impurities.

A1  
(cont)  
2. (Amended) A plain bearing according to claim 1, wherein said lead-free tin-base alloy consists essentially of, by weight, from more than 2.5% to 5% Ag, and balance of Sn and inevitable impurities.

3. (Amended) A plain bearing according to claim 1, wherein said lead-free tin-base alloy consists essentially of, by weight, from more than 2% to 10% Ag, a total amount of 0.1% to 25% of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Cu, Sb, Zn and Ni, and balance of Sn and inevitable impurities.

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Add the following new claims:

A2  
4. (New) A plain bearing according to claim 1, wherein said lead-free tin-base alloy consists essentially of, by weight, from more than 2% to 10% Ag, a total amount of 0.1 to 25% of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Cu, Sb and Ni, and balance of Sn and inevitable impurities.

5. (New) A plain bearing comprising a back metal layer, a bearing alloy layer and an overlay which coats said bearing alloy layer, wherein said overlay is made of a lead-free tin-base alloy which consists of, by weight,

from more than 2% to 10% Ag,

optionally one or more elements selected from the group consisting of Cu, Sb and Ni in a total amount of 0.1 to 25% by weight, and

balance of Sn and inevitable impurities.

6. (New) The plain bearing of claim 5 wherein said Ag is present in an amount from more than 2.5% to 5%.

7. (New) The plain bearing of claim 5 wherein said one or more optional elements is present in said lead-free tin-based alloy of said overlay.

8. (New) The plain bearing of claim 5 wherein said one or more optional elements is not present in said lead-free tin-based alloy of said overlay.

9. (New) The plain bearing according to claim 5 wherein said overlay comprises, in addition to said lead-free tin-based alloy, at least one of hard particles to improve wear resistance and particles of solid lubricant to decrease coefficient of friction.